THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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THE BUSINESSMAN-ARCHITECT

By S. J. T. STRAUS*

[NOTE.—*Of late years the architect, in addition to his services in planning and superintending the construction of a new building, has often found himself in a position where he must be of assistance to his client in its financing. In recognition of the importance of this vital preliminary to construction, and because of the increasing frequency with which they are being consulted in regard to it, several large architectural firms have established business departments which are at the service of their clients.* THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT *feels that a need exists for a discussion of the various phases of this subject. The Editors have, therefore, secured a series of authoritative articles which will appear from time to time and give information which it is hoped will prove of value to the architect in practice.*]

IT IS a commonplace of architectural knowledge that American business has revolutionized business-architecture during the last generation; yet it is perhaps true that comparatively few architects realize the real revolution that a considerable part of the profession itself has undergone as a result of this development. For years the main concern of the architect was solely with the artistic side of his profession, and the main works of his brain and hand were churches, public buildings and private residences—structures in which utility often bowed to beauty.

But now it is fair to say that at least the great majority of the architect's work in the United States consists in the designing of business buildings — vast buildings whose prime object, after all, is to obtain the greatest return in dollars and cents for the capital invested. As a result, more and more architectural firms are making an intensive study of the business of architectural designing as distinguished from the art; more and more frequently have they founded their success on ability to advise with clients and assist builders and owners to obtain the best returns from their investment.

One of the leading firms of architects in the country attributes its growth to the fact that the man at its head is an able financier and an unusually capable businessman. In the early stages of the firm's work, this architect, realizing that before a building can be erected financial arrangements must be made, interested banks and other financial institutions in the various projects for which his firm drew plans. Through whole-hearted financing co-operation with his clients, his name soon became identified with a large proportion of the commercial buildings erected in the country.

Every commercial proposition submitted to this architectural firm is thoroughly gone over by him. He estimates the income from the building and the expenses of operation. He determines the owner's financial capacity, that is, his ability to take care of the charges not included in the architect's cost of the building, such as interest on a loan, vacancies and the inevitable extra charges which will come up when the building is nearing completion. If some idiosyncrasy of the owner is reflected in the building to its disadvantage, he endeavors to show his client in dollars and cents why this should be eliminated.

He is the final authority in this firm, with the owners who know him, on mat-

* Mr. S. J. T. Straus is connected with a Chicago banking house, which has specialized for many years in constructions loans. As a consequence he is thoroughly familiar with the business end of architecture, and speaks with authority.

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ters referring to the commercial problems in a building. Alterations suggested by him to increase the income return are often regarded of more importance than the artistic considerations influencing his associates. In numerous instances, propositions that, from his knowledge and experience he knows would not be successful, have been discouraged, even though the owners were of ample means and fully able to finance the project.

This man is an excellent example of the businessman-architect. His success in this work is proof that an opportunity undoubtedly exists today in business-architecture. Much of the uncertainty shown by owners in financing matters, and a great many commercial failures, could be eliminated by the architect's active assistance commercially throughout the planning of a building. Oftentimes his successful co-operation in this connection means that a tentative project will be crystallized into actual construction work. It is, therefore, to his interest that he be prepared to furnish this service when he is called upon by his client.

The businessman-architect should understand, first of all, what constitutes a profitable enterprise from the standpoint of the owner and incidentally of the loaning institution which will provide a portion of the capital and must be convinced of the merit of the project. He must be able to determine what would be the proper improvement for a particular location; the demand for a certain class of building must be gaged accurately so as not to contribute to such errors as a loft building calling for rentals of seventy cents a square foot where forty cents is the maximum, or expensive high grade apartments in a neighborhood where stove heat is not uncommon, or vice versa. He should understand the basis for estimating values of the various classes of property. He should keep in close touch with the active market in real estate, knowing what properties would have the best sale and their market prices. He must know up to what point a piece of property may be improved, and that a great mistake is made in over-improvement, even on a valuable piece of property, because a large improvement on a small lot eliminates the two most necessary requirements of a tenant, light and air. In other words, he must be able not only to plan and judge the architectural features in connection with a building, but combine this with the commercial aspects as well. He must realize that it is the business and financial considerations which determine the ultimate success of a commercial building.

Propositions will be submitted to the architect by careless promoters or real estate men who have discovered that some one is ready to sell a lot which could advantageously be improved or replaced by a more modern structure. Desiring to put up the largest building possible on the land, they hurry through the preliminary stages with little real thought for the proper improvement of this particular spot. After the sketch is made, the proposition is submitted to a bank or other financial institution for the purpose of securing a loan. Being in an indefinite shape, it does not appear especially attractive to the loaning institution, and consequently an unfavorable decision is reached. Under such conditions, the architect is in a difficult position. However, it is often to his advantage to take the bolder course—to insist that the proposed building project be thoroughly worked out, and that the plans be very definite and well studied. Thus he may avoid the annoyance and loss of time, and even reputation, involved in drawing plans for a building which, subjected to investigation, shows itself to be inexpedient and unprofitable in the long run. These are the points into which a loaning institution inquires very closely, and the architect should do likewise.

In this connection, an instance or two in the experience of the businessman-architect mentioned previously will illustrate the point:

"A man walked into this office not long ago," he relates, "with plans for an office building. The district was one of heavy land value and it was my opinion, after an investigation, that our client was not contemplating an improvement of sufficient size in proportion to the earning possibilities of the land. I suggested the

addition of two stories to the building so that, compared with the increased income derived, the added capital invested would bring him a more profitable return; thus the overhead expenses per square foot, which were rather heavy with the building as originally planned, were materially reduced and it was a more satisfactory business proposition all around.

"In another case a man came to me with a proposition for a six-story fireproof apartment building with elevators. Preliminary sketches were made, but I was not satisfied that such a building would be successful. The neighborhood was ill suited to the building, being situated at a considerable distance from the center of the city, with unsatisfactory transportation facilities. In addition, the entire plan appeared to me as being visionary and one which would never get to the point of erecting a structure—perhaps never even getting to the point of paying for plans and specifications. A conference was held in which the disadvantages were pointed out to the owner. There was no escaping them, and he dropped the building project. This was a case in which I feel we gained rather than lost. It often happens that an architect does not escape blame for the erection of an impractical building, even in cases where he is entirely without fault. We did not think it advisable for our firm to be associated with a building which would be a poor investment. A thorough investigation and a conservative attitude on the part of an architect will often prove a check on impractical builders, which conserves his reputation and, in the long run, makes money for his firm."

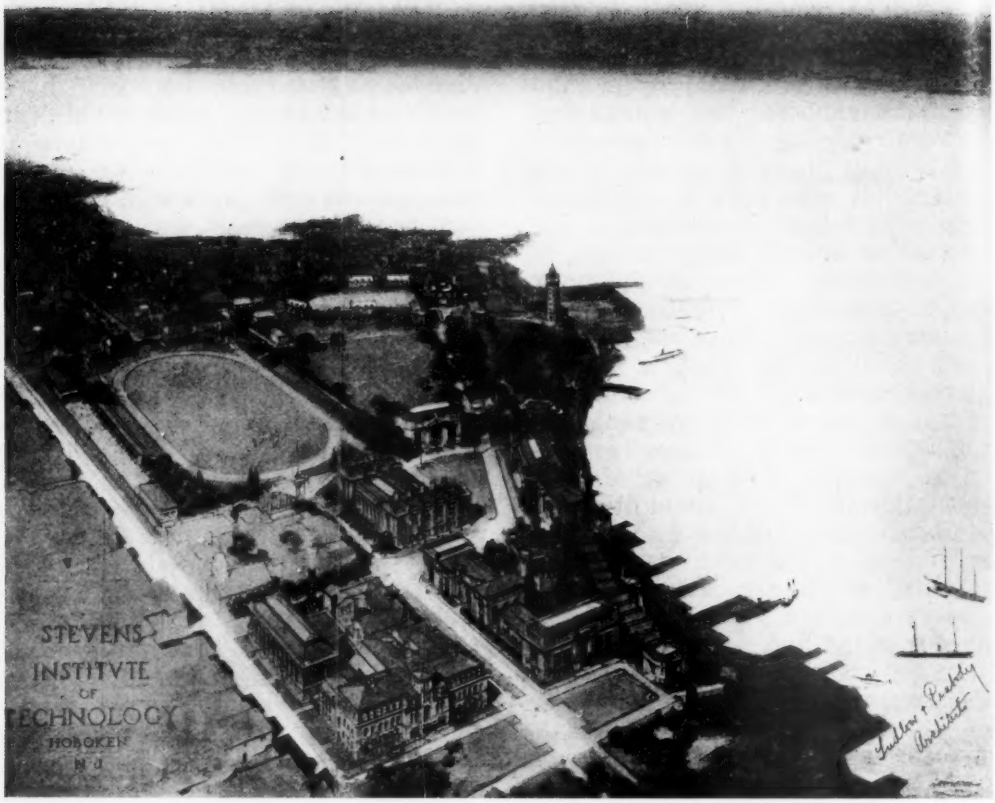
Often the architect will see an opportunity for enlarging on his client's ideas, as instanced by another architect:

"I was once consulted by an experienced builder who contemplated the erection of a ten-story hotel upon a lot owned by him. This man had already planned to lease the building at a substantial figure to a responsible hotel man, and considered that he had what would prove to be a very successful proposition, as he would clear 9% net. The entire project was worked out complete in every detail, and as far as it went, was quite satisfactory. I happened to know that the neighborhood of the proposed improvement was peculiarly adapted for an apartment-hotel. From carefully estimated figures we could see where our client could increase this yield by changing the character of his building to that of apartments operated on the hotel plan. The facts were submitted to him, and the subsequent erection of this type of building vindicated our judgment."

Often the architect's activities will go even further. A certain Chicago architect was offered an opportunity to purchase on a decidedly advantageous basis a corner bordering on the downtown loop. The architect believed that a building for light manufacturing, if erected on the property, would fill a genuine need and prove profitable. Through his influence, therefore, a syndicate to erect such a building was formed, the purchase of the land and a portion of the cost of the proposed building being financed by disposing of stock. A first mortgage bond issue loan covering the balance of the cost was readily obtained, and the building soon became a reality. The financial success of the project more than justified the architect's judgment.

The above instances are proof of the fact that an opportunity is open to architects in business-architecture.

In succeeding articles it is the intention to discuss more fully the principles underlying the development of successful business buildings.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW, SHOWING PROPOSED PLAN OF ENLARGEMENT OF STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AT CASTLE POINT

MESSRS. LUDLOW & PEABODY, *ARCHITECTS*

THE WILLIAM HALL WALKER GYMNASIUM

MESSRS. LUDLOW & PEABODY, *Architects*

(*For illustrations see plate section*)

THIS building marks a departure from the usual gymnasium plan. Elliptical buildings are not common and at first thought, when the architects set themselves to solve the problem of the best possible gymnasium, the usual rectangular form naturally suggested itself.

A local condition, however, pointed to an unusual premise in this problem and that was the shape of the plot of ground on which the gymnasium is to be built. This plot lies between diverging lines, and it was realized that a rectangular building would be a most uncomfortable fit for this trapezoidal piece of ground.

A second condition of the problem was the fact that an exceptionally good running track seemed to be most desirable.

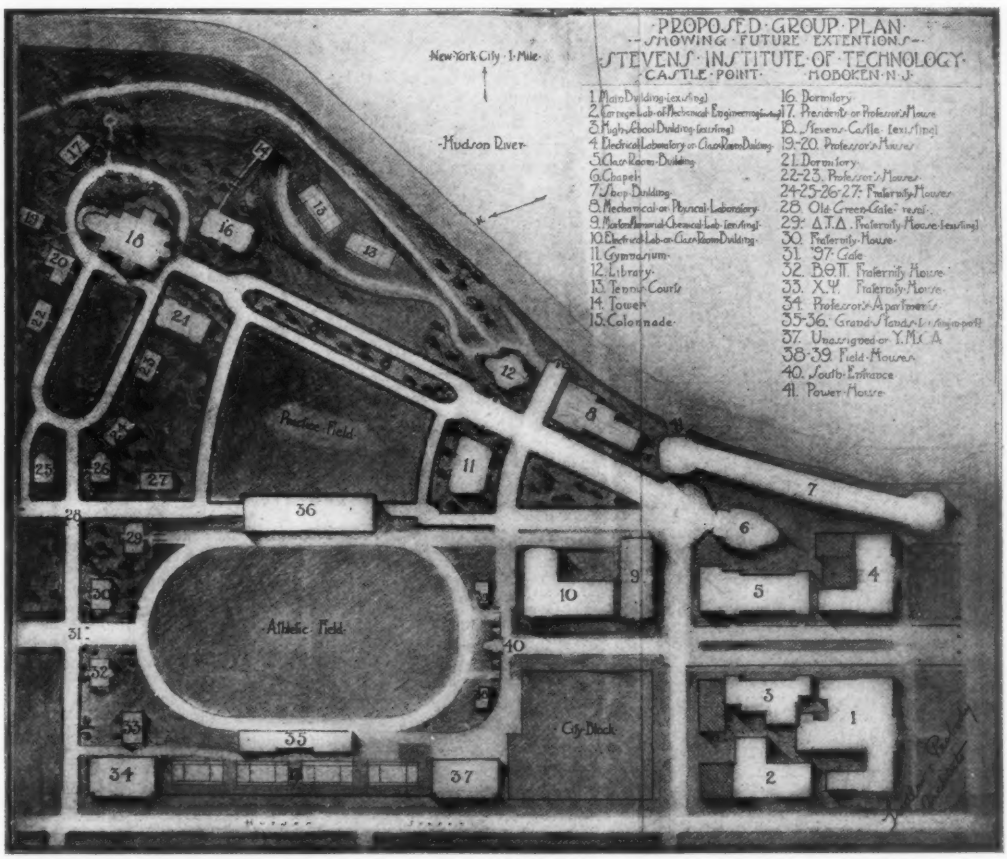
A third condition which, in importance, perhaps comes first, is that the greatest efficiency should be obtained at the minimum of cost compatible with first-class construction and suitable appearance.

Study proved that the elliptical form answered all of these requirements in rather surprisingly complete fashion. That this form adapts itself to the plot is obvious; that it was logical to build an elliptical wall around the necessarily elliptical running track is also obvious; that economy would be effected

was not so clear at the outset, for a wall built on a curve costs more per unit than a straight wall, but careful analysis and the drawing of different types of plans upon which estimates were obtained, proved that this was the case.

One reason for this economy was on account of the fact that the desired floor area could be enclosed by less lineal feet of brick wall by the elliptical form than

with this in mind, a large part of the first floor is devoted to a practice room which, with the inclusion by means of folding partitions of the exercise room and boxing room, gives a space one hundred and ten feet long with a twelve-foot ceiling, for baseball battery practice, football formation work, jumping and the like. The second or main gymnasium floor will be used for basket ball,



MESSRS. LUDLOW & PEABODY, *ARCHITECTS*

the rectangular; another was that the oval shape in itself was so interesting architecturally that little in the way of embellishment was required. The exterior is of variegated deep-toned red brick with raked-out joints, and the trim limestone and terra cotta. The roof is of variegated slate.

The plan was developed on the premise that general athletics more than mere gymnastics were to be encouraged, and

lacrosse practice, putting the shot, pole vaulting, etc., while a special room is provided on the first floor for boxing and fencing.

The running track is planned ten feet in width, thus permitting the passing of runners, necessary in competitive events, and also providing an ample gallery for spectators. Windows range along the greater part of the track and, as the oval wall conforms to its shape, the usual

dead corners are eliminated and a track unusually attractive to the runner is the result.

It might be added that the curvature is not a true ellipse, but is composed of arcs of circles struck from two centers. This affects considerably the cost of construction as a continually varying radius requires more time and labor in laying out and executing the work.

The track floor has the usual concave contour and is covered with cork carpet.

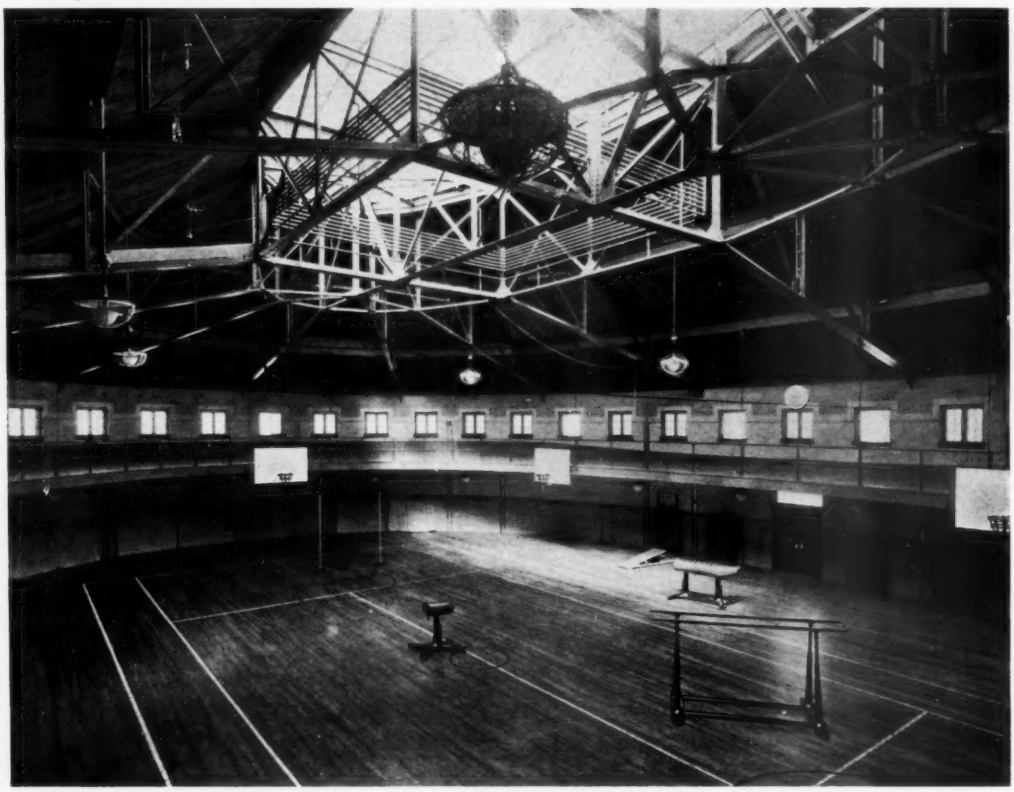
To obtain an abundance of daylight, the gymnasium floor and running track receive light from a forty-foot ventilating oval skylight, as well as from the track windows already referred to.

The height of the gymnasium room to the underside of the trusses will be 27 feet, 6 inches, and to the roof at the ridge 38 feet.

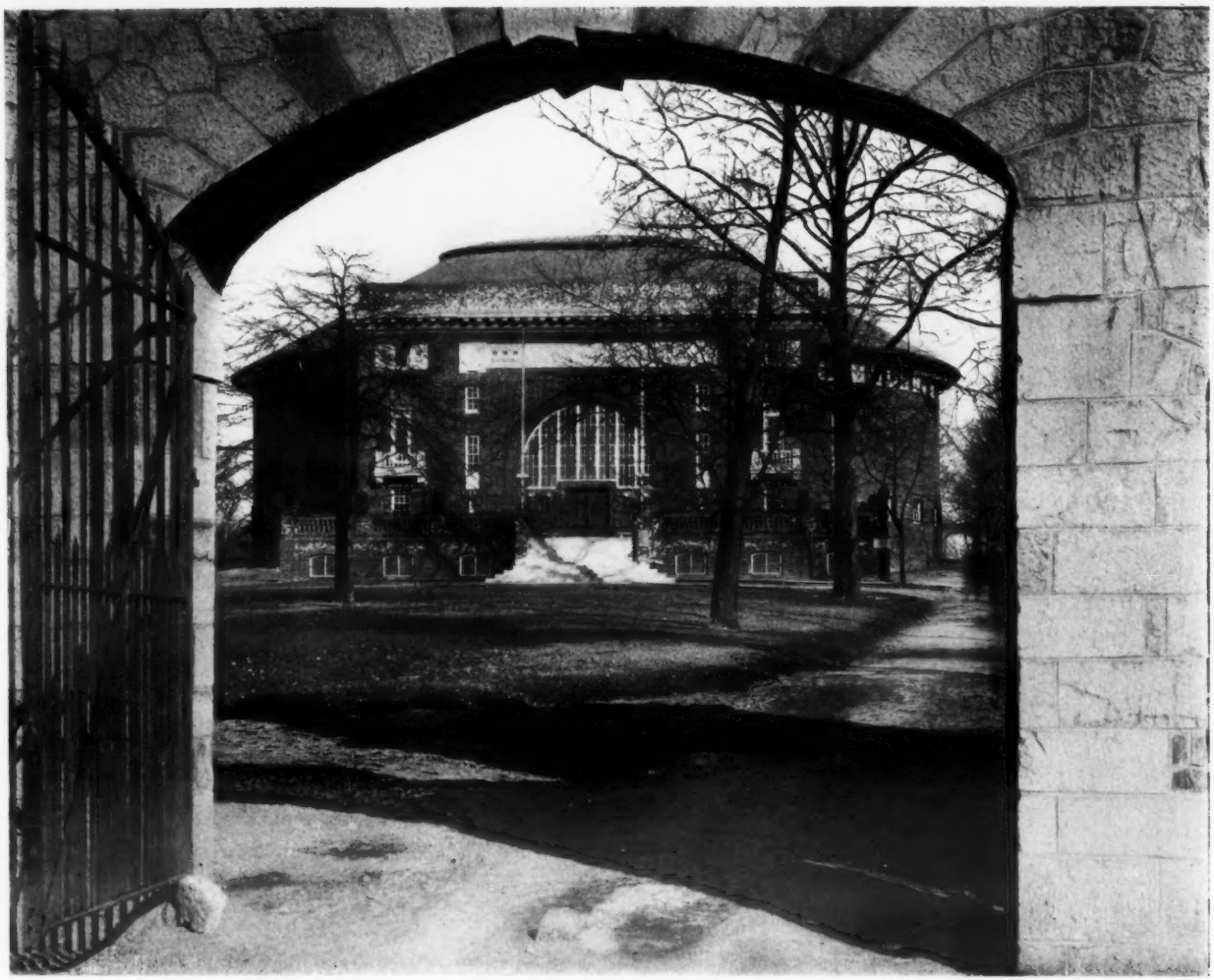
It is planned that the exercise room on the first floor will take care of all but the largest classes in gymnastics and setting up exercises, such as chest weights, dumbbells, etc., thus leaving the gymnasium floor proper for a large proportion of the time available for more strictly athletic purposes, games, etc. This room will also be available for dances or other gatherings.

The facility of administration and supervision of such a building is an important matter, and the entire arrangement of plan must often be controlled by its requirements. In this case the physical director will have not only his administration room on the first floor near the entrance, but an examination room on the second floor and connected with it a control room overlooking the gymnasium floor through glazed sash.

The locker rooms are all on the first or ground floor with ample light and air from windows above grade. The faculty locker room is immediately in the left of



INTERIOR OF GYMNASIUM



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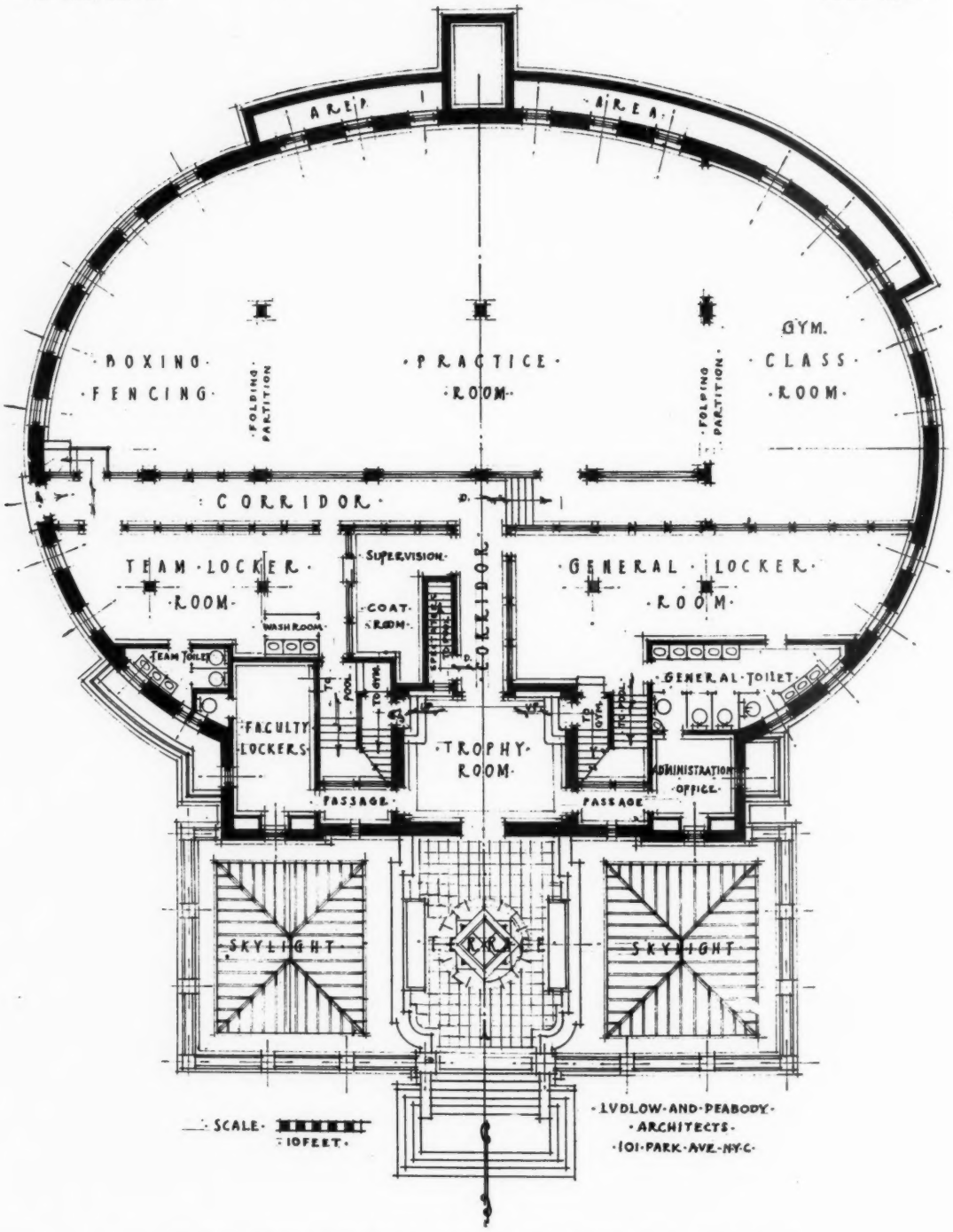

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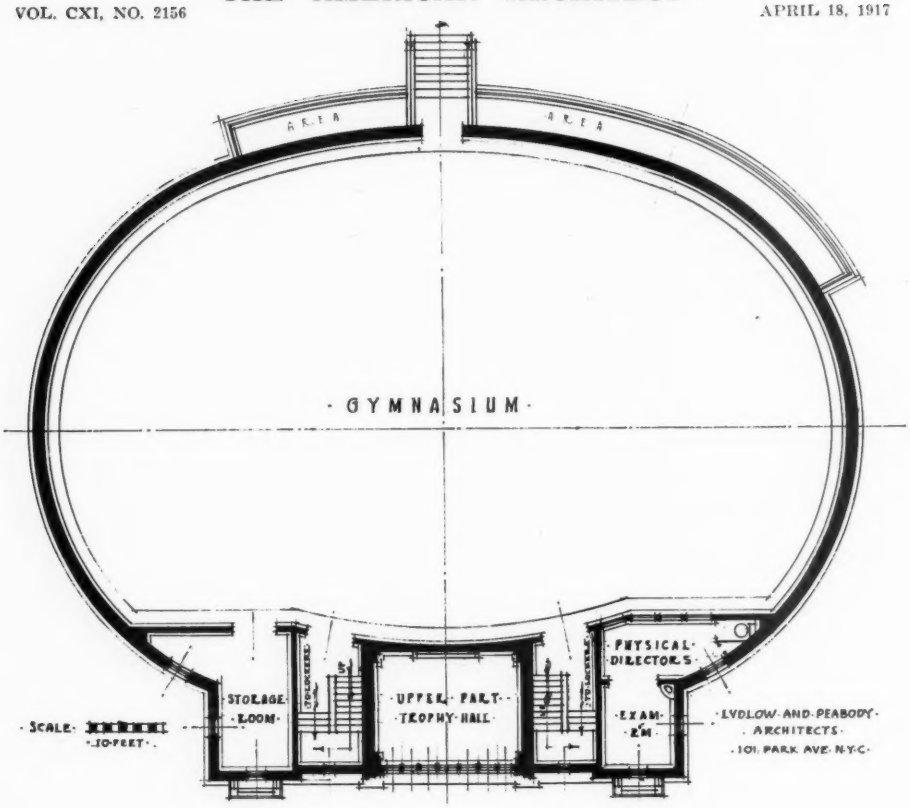

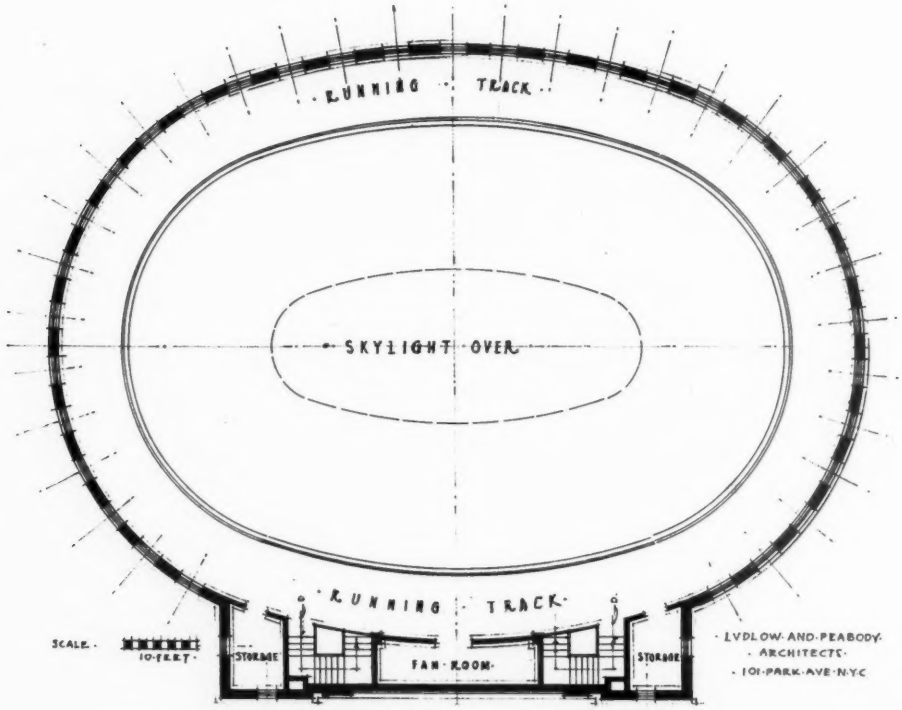

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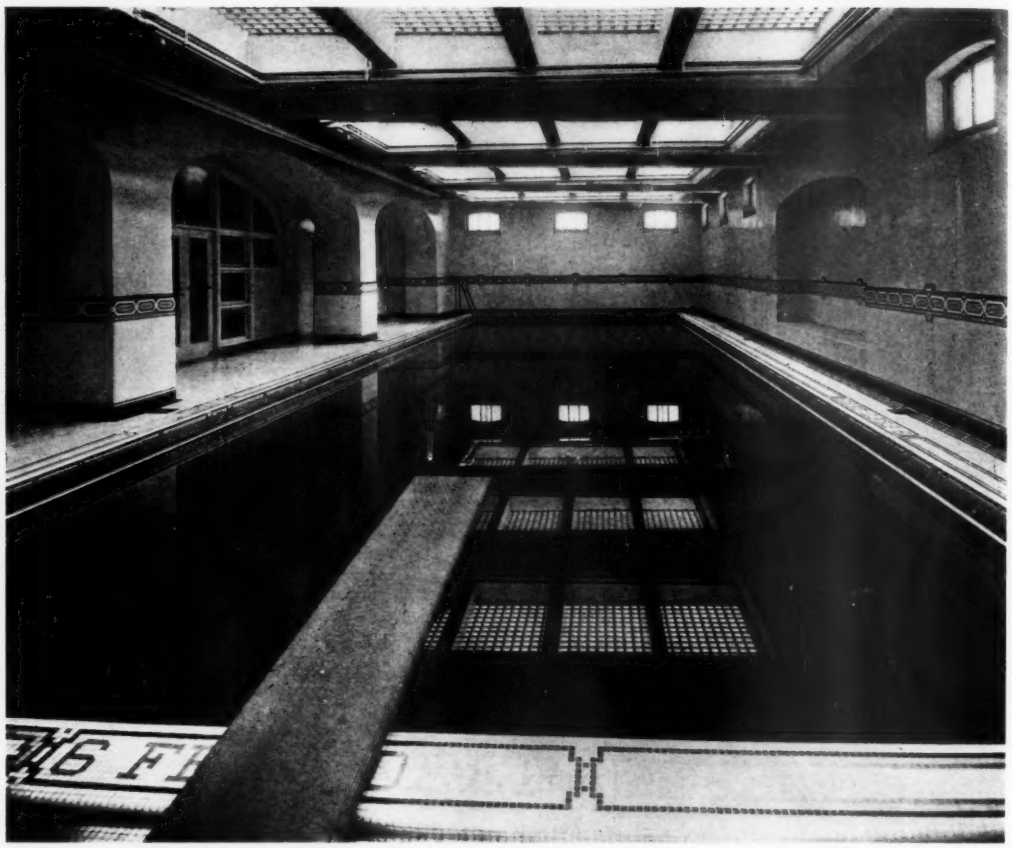

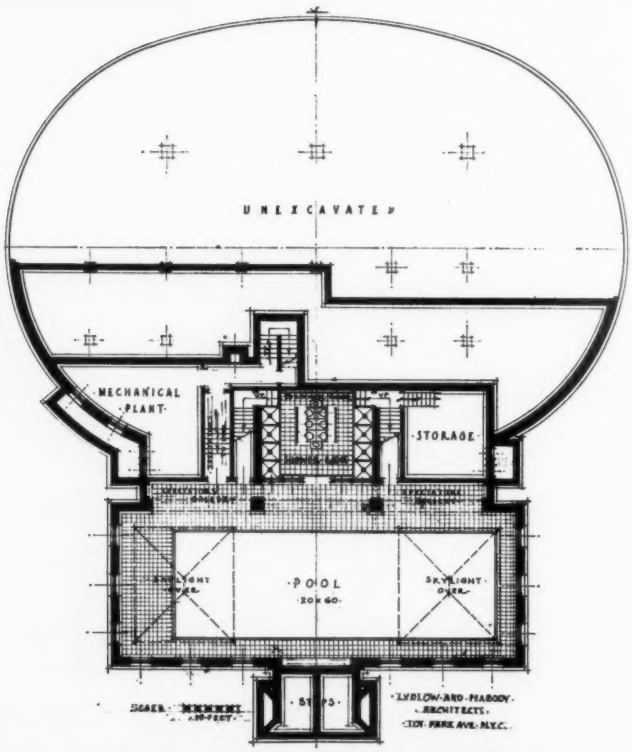

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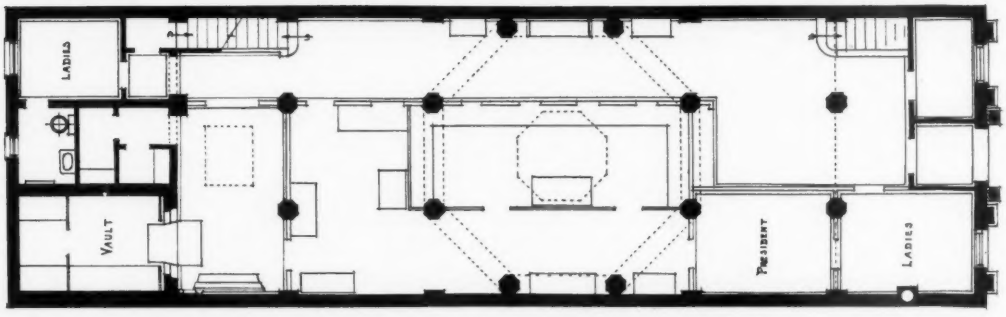
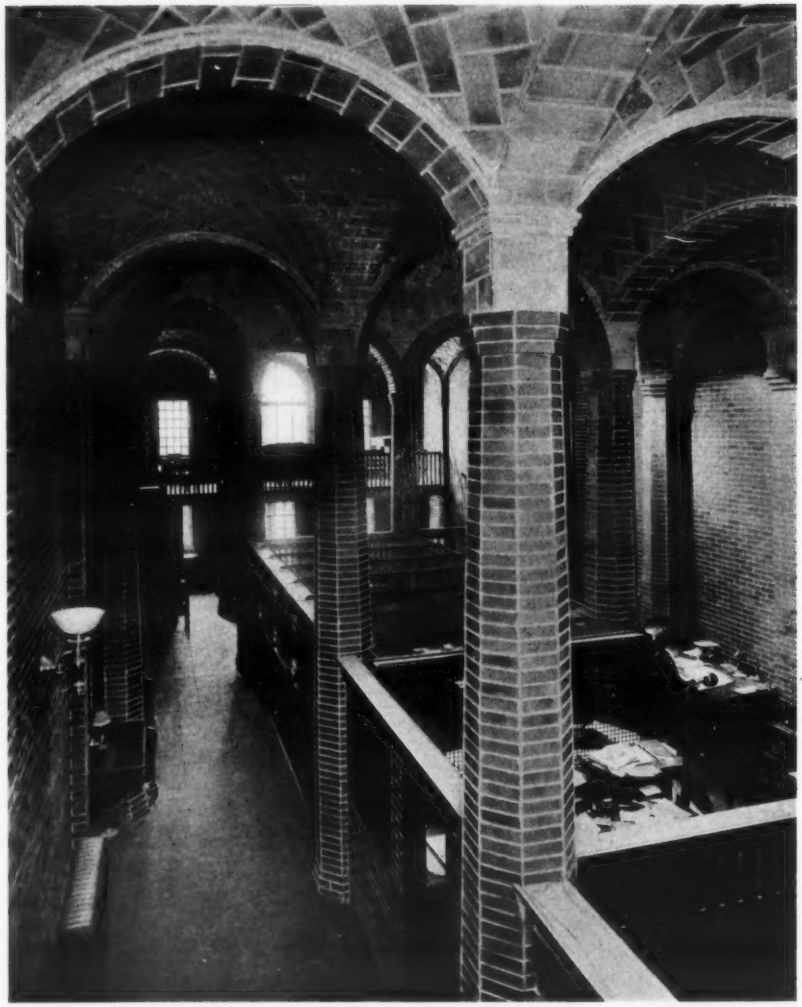


PUTNAM TRUST CO., GREENWICH, CONN.

MR. F. A. WRIGHT, *ARCHITECT*

This building is 25′ wide by 85′ deep, fireproof, and constructed almost entirely of brick excepting the terra cotta entrance and cornice. All of the interior walls and the bank and other partitions and columns are of old gold brick.

The interior roof is of Guastavino tile construction. The entire cost of the building, including fittings and furnishings, was less than $25,000.



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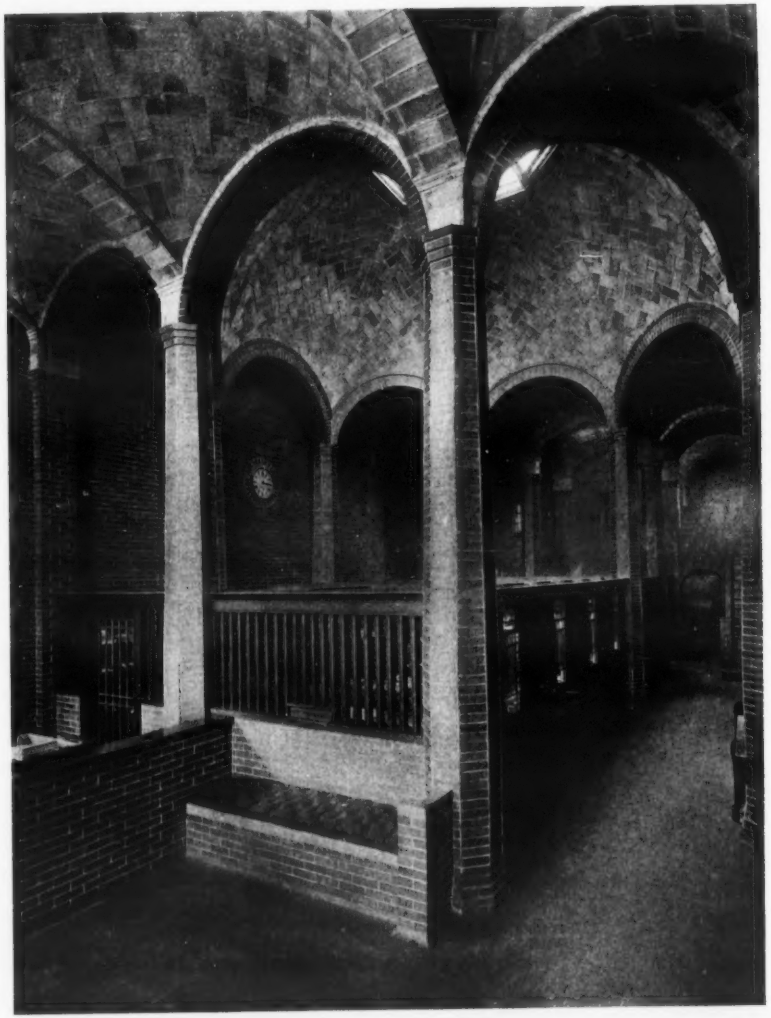

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ST. PAUL'S MISSION CHURCH, WELLESLEY, MASS.

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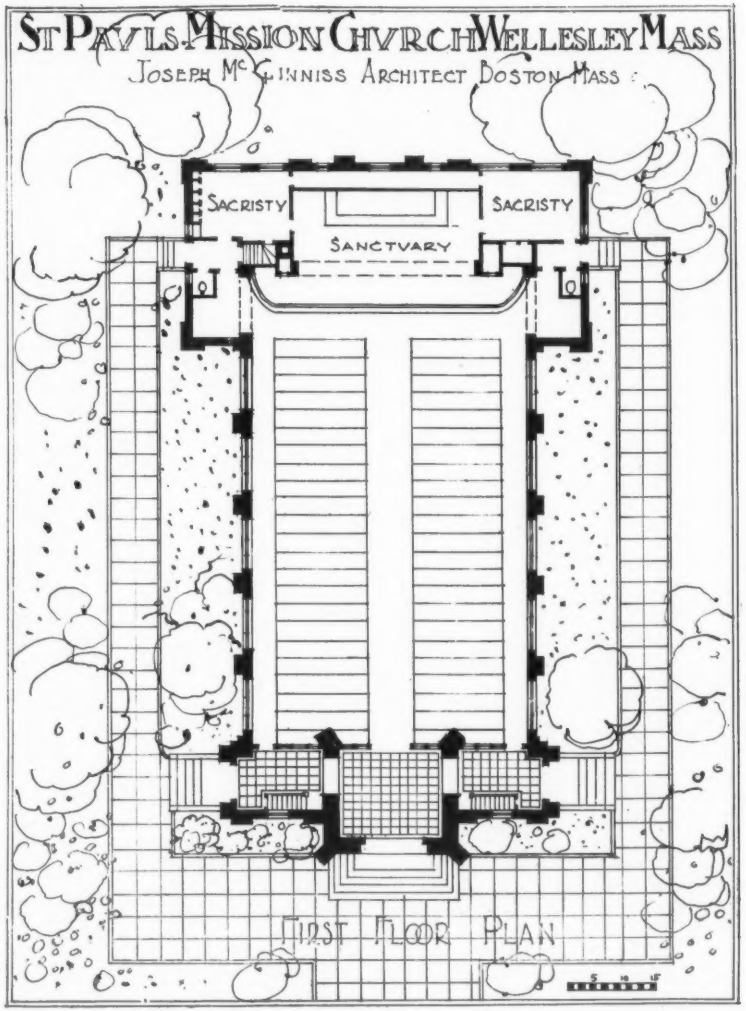

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the main entrance and will thus be suitable for occasional use as a ladies' dressing room at times of mixed assemblages for the witnessing of exhibition games or contests or for dances or entertainments.

To the teams is apportioned the locker room adjacent to the ground level entrance from the athletic field. One end of this room is capable of being divided off for visiting teams, and further made convenient by a separate entrance door.

The general locker room at the east end of this floor is to be provided with regulation lockers for general purposes and also the Kansas City system tote boxes for those who need only the limited amount of athletic clothing required for gymnastic work.

At the center of the floor, in direct communication with the locker rooms, is the supervision and supply room where towels and other supplies can be obtained with the fewest possible steps, and from which the entire floor can be overlooked.

To give the maximum ventilation most of the partitions in this story are of wire grille work from a point six feet high to the ceiling. Artificial ventilation is also obtained in all the locker rooms, toilet and shower rooms by a system of exhaust ducts operated by a fan discharging above the roof.

The main entrance lobby is two stories in height and, with its barrel vaulted ceiling and walls lined with cases for display of cups, prizes and trophies, provides an interesting entrance to the visitor.

Perhaps one of the most interesting as well as most popular features of the building is the swimming pool. A well-planned pool should have good daylight and natural ventilation, and in this case the slope of the ground provided an opportunity to build a swimming pool at the south front of the building, the roof of which would form a terrace or little plaza. Direct sunlight falls into the water of the pool and gives not only a sun-flooded room, but insures the best sanitary conditions.

The pool is standard length for swimming events—sixty feet,—lined with mosaic tile, and with the usual spring-board, flying rings, and varying water depths to provide for deep diving and also for non-swimmers.

By actual tests it has been found that the average man in diving from a spring-board reaches the greatest depth of his dive at a point eight feet from the end of the board, the contour of the pool bottom has, therefore, been made to provide the deepest water at this point. This contour has also been varied a little from the usual at the shallow end, as recent statistics show that in colleges 60 per cent of the users of the pool are non-swimmers, and fully one-half of the pool area, therefore, ought to be suitable to their use, particularly since this can be provided without interfering with the convenience of swimmers.

The top of the pool life rail forms the top rim of a tile gutter which constantly carries away the surface water with any impurities or dust collecting on it. Tile numerals along the edge give the depth of the water above the sloping bottom and other similar numerals, the number of yards from the pool end. Dark tile lines along the bottom divide the pool longitudinally into swimming lanes.

One of the most important yet often neglected provisions is for an avoidance of a crossing of the trails of wet and dry feet going to the locker rooms and from the locker rooms to the pool and back. This is adequately taken care of by special stairways leading direct from each locker room through the shower room to the pool, thus, by the way, making neglect of the necessary shower bath difficult.

A separate visitors' stairway is also part of the plan.

For the washing and sterilizing of garments, a laundry is placed in the basement which is reached direct from the locker rooms by a dumb waiter.

The pool water is thoroughly sterilized by being passed through a hypochlorite of calcium chamber and then through a series of filters.

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DETAIL OF ONE OF THE CARVED PANELS

THE MARY BAKER EDDY MEMORIAL CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

By EGERTON SWARTWOUT, *Architect**

THE design of the memorial for Mary Baker Eddy was a gradual development from the original scheme, and was influenced by the character of the memorial, by the site, and by the material finally adopted.

The memorial can be seen from all sides equally well, close at hand from the cemetery road, and from a quarter of a mile away across the lake. Indeed, it is this body of water which forms the chief beauty of the site. There is a drop of approximately ten feet from the level of the road to the level of the lake, there being a natural terrace on the axis of the plot which lends itself admirably to the architectural development of the memorial. This change of grade in the memorial is accomplished by a double flight of circular steps leading from the platform in front of the memorial to a similar platform some five feet below it on the lake side, and these circular steps, as seen from across the water, seem to embrace the memorial and give it a substantial foundation, and by their curved lines complement the curve of the colonnade above.

The original scheme was essentially a marble design, as it seemed that in no other material could the requisite fineness of detail be obtained, but after much investigation it was decided to abandon marble, and Bethel white granite was finally selected.

Mr. Menconi, the modeler and carver, then made a series of experiments with the granite to determine just to what extent the carving could be carried. We found that with the aid of modern methods this hard granite could be carved with the delicacy of marble, and that marvelous results could be obtained.

I think it can be said without fear of contradiction that, leaving aside entirely any artistic excellence, such perfection and delicacy have never been attained before in this unyielding and enduring material. There is certainly nothing in modern times that can approach it nor, as far as I know, in any of the monuments of antiquity.

The detail is novel; it is not a copy of any highly conventionalized type, but is living and vibrant and at the same time it still retains its classic feeling.

The panels in the pylons are a little over one foot high and about three feet long, and are in high relief.

The memorial itself consists of a circular colonnade of eight columns, 15 feet in height, surmounted by a cornice and a cheneau course or cresting. There is no roof or covering; the colonnade is open, and similarly there is no pavement in the circle inclosed by the columns, nor is there

(*Continued on page* 248)

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WAR AND THE ARCHITECT

SPECIALIZATION, in its ruthlessly logical advance, is entrenched before the realities of war itself. In the course of the European war to date a lack of specialization—that is, a lack of proper regard for specially developed capabilities on the part of individuals or of professional groups and bodies—has repeatedly appeared as an obstacle to complete success and as a hindrance to thoroughness and effective equipment; and this without mention of the loss of highly trained types of minds in the regular course of attack and advance, minds devoted to trench digging, though equipped by years of schooling, training and practice to a skillful use of pencil, rule and instruments; minds whose capabilities might have been diverted to a score of channels of greater service, with distinct advantage at the moment and with the even greater hope of resources to be available when reconstruction shall have superseded carnage. Those of us who have had access to the *Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects*, to the gazettes of the various *ateliérs* in Paris, or to the German architectural periodicals that still reached this country in the first months of the war, are aware of the long lists of architects killed in action or permanently disabled, having found death or mutilation as regulars on the firing line. With the example of European countries before us, now that our entry into the struggle has made it a world conflict, it is to be hoped that the architect's ability will be given its proper position in the service of the nation.

Far be it from us to discourage regular military service, and there are many architects who will feel themselves called upon to serve as regulars; nor need it here be repeated that all citizens of military age are subject to the call of arms as provided for in the Constitution of the United States. But it may also be said that service to the home land is of the greatest variety and that fighting is but one type of service, even at the front.

The architect's training has made him professionally useful in a special field in time of peace; why should that special usefulness be forgotten or ignored in time of war? While banks were depicted on his drafting board in 1916, there may be barracks in 1917, and in similar fashion museum buildings will cede place to munitions plants, hotels will be replaced by hospitals. The suggestion is too apparent to need further expatiation here.

Let the architect's training be the nation's resource. Let his specialized type of knowledge, duly organized, be an anchor of reliance. Above all, let us by this very service likewise conserve these trained minds for service after the war.

And we must emphasize the need for organization in such service. Specialized minds individually can render but a modicum of the assistance that they can easily give when once they are welded into a unit. The federal government must be assured that there are in New York or in Chicago or in San Francisco a stated number of architects ready to be used as draftsmen, as topographers, as surveyors, as superintendents of construction of bridges, landings, roads, as designers and builders of war buildings of fifty different kinds. And these but suggest the possible fields that would be fertile ground for the architect's specialized training.

Obviously, when such work must be

done—and conditions demand an always increasing efficiency and effective accomplishment in these directions—shall we be considered unpatriotic if we regard the use of such minds for cannon targets as an economic waste? And again, what of the number of those physically unfit in the ranks of the architects? Shall the service of these capable men be lost to the nation because the ranks of the fighting men are closed to them? And, finally, when the war has run its length and men's minds again are set in the course of peace, what of the work of the architects then? In the labor of reconstruction, rebuilding the sinews of the land, the architect bears a great responsibility and, even though destruction by invasion is the least of our fears, ordinary building will in the very nature of things be retarded during the war, so that the aftermath will make heavy demands upon the profession, and at a time when the greatest judgment will be required. Above all, then, let us remember that, though as a nation we may fight for ideals, the conservation of these ideals must be our chief recompense. Such conservation can and should begin at once, and that by an organization of all specially trained minds into available units, classified according to type and length of experience and according to particular field or parts of a given field in which they are best able to be of direct service to the country.

Even as we indite these lines there is brought to our desk a circular and questionnaire sent to its members by the American Institute of Architects. In view of the importance of promulgating such information, we reprint the whole of this circular elsewhere in this issue. Specially important is the itemized list of branches of service in which training and specific qualifications can prove of assistance at once, under the Quartermaster's Corps and the Corps of Engineers in the Army. No doubt the Navy can avail itself, although only to a certain extent, of like services. It is our honest hope that success may come to the Institute's plan, that organization will result and the nation profit thereby. By using the local influence of its chapters and thus bringing individuals more nearly within reach, such organization may be made very closely effective and immediately available service units established.

Assuming, however, that the Institute's circular was sent to members only, we are prompted to ask how those not members shall be organized, especially the great number of younger draftsmen. One way, of course, immediately suggests itself—namely, a census within each office and a report to a local chapter of the Institute, whether the chief of the firm is a member or not. We venture to feel assured that the various chapters would be content to undertake such clerical work as might be attached to the gathering of these office reports, and, after due classification, of sending them to the Institute's headquarters in Washington.

It may be well to point out that the established architect can render still another kind of service. Several of the larger firms have offered their entire facilities—office space, drafting rooms and equipment—to the War Department to be used at any time and in any manner that may be deemed necessary. What a wealth of resource there is again in this type of contribution toward national defense. All honor to those who have blazed the way in this direction, for they have offered gladly a type of sacrifice that nations are usually driven to exact under military law.

Even the schools have fallen into line. Columbia has set the pace by offering its spacious and well-equipped drafting rooms to the Government for military purposes. No doubt other schools will soon follow. The universities generally throughout the land have promptly put the facilities of their various departments at the nation's command.

And, finally, let all architects bear in mind that success can come to our arms only if they are adequately supported; that service is manifold; that the specialized training of the architect is an asset to the land in war as well as in peace, and that, with proper organization, professional services rendered will redound to the profit and glory of the United States.

RICHARD F. BACH.

THE MARY BAKER EDDY MEMORIAL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

MR. EGERTON SWARTWOUT, *ARCHITECT*

THE MARY BAKER EDDY MEMORIAL

(*Continued from page* 244)

any stone structure of any kind over the grave itself, but the space between the columns will be filled entirely with growing flowers. This colonnade rests upon a stylobate of three steps, which stylobate is surrounded on the road side by a broad platform of pink granite, which contrasts admirably with the white granite of the memorial itself.

The entablature is extremely simple, relying for its ornamentation on the exterior, chiefly upon the carved cresting and the bronze inscription in the frieze, and on the interior upon the elaborate and effective frieze, which is carved in high relief.

While this landscape treatment has not been definitely decided upon, it will probably consist chiefly of some evergreen plants that will preserve their form and leaves through the entire year, cedars and rhododendrons, and similar plants.

TEXT OF CIRCULAR SENT OUT BY THE INSTITUTE

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON PREPAREDNESS

THE history of the past two years has proved that the greatest need of any country in time of trouble is organization. We, as a nation, need to know what our resources are in men, and to have our knowledge in such shape that we can utilize our latent force.

The architectural profession has certain knowledge that should render its members peculiarly valuable to the country in time of trouble.

The American Institute of Architects, having, through its president, offered the services of the architects of this country to the President of the United States, is about to classify the knowledge and special abilities of its members and other architects, in a manner that will render it able in the shortest possible time to place these men where they can render their best service with no lost motion.

Every citizen of military age is of course, under the Constitution of the United States, subject to the call of arms. Most architects, owing to their professional training, can be of greater service than the usual enlisted man.

Anyone feeling himself disqualified for service by reason of age, physical disability, or disinclination, should nevertheless sign and return the blank, thereby saving the committee the work and expense of follow-up letters.

We therefore ask all architects to fill in the attached blank and return it at once.

As the Institute has no funds available for this work, it is suggested that a small voluntary subscription may be sent to D. Everett Waid, treasurer, 1 Madison Avenue, New York.

Central Committee on Preparedness

EVARTS TRACY, *Chairman*
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

AYMAR EMBURY, II, *Vice-Chairman*

CHARLES H. HAMMOND — WOODRUFF LEEMING
FRANCIS B. WHEATON — CHARLES BUTLER
FRANK HOLDEN — SHIPLEY THOMAS

NEEDS OF THE ARMY

The United States Army is in greatest need of line officers, and it would be of the greatest service if the younger men of the profession, particularly those who have had military training, would enter this branch.

The branches of the service in which an architect's training and knowledge would render him particularly valuable are the Corps of Engineers and Quartermaster Corps. In both of these there is no age limit.

The Quartermaster Corps is primarily the business organization of the Army. It has charge of the equipment, supplies, commissary, pay, transportation and building.

The duties of the Corps of Engineers comprise reconnoitering and surveying for military purposes, including the laying out of camps; selection of sites and formation of plans and estimates for military defenses; construction and repair of fortifications and their accessories; the installation of electric power plants and

electric power cable connected with seacoast batteries; construction and repair of military roads, railroads and bridges; military demolitions. In time of war within the theater of operations it has charge of the location, design and construction of wharves, piers, landings, storehouses, hospitals, and other structures of general interest, and of the construction, maintenance and repair of roads, ferries, bridges, and incidental structures, and of the construction, maintenance and operation of railroads under military control, including the construction and operation of armored trains.

The buildings erected under the Q. M. C. comprise barracks, warehouses, hospitals, etc., of which many would be needed in time of trouble, and therefore the architect's services are particularly valuable.

The special qualifications for members of an engineer company comprise:

Engineers specializing in Bridges
Construction
Earth
Concrete
Wharves
Piers
Buildings
Electrical
Highway
Mining
Railroad
Sanitary
Topographical
Construction Superintendents
Topographical Surveyors and Sketchers
Draftsmen
Photographers and Blueprint men
Lithographers and Zincographers
Quarrymen
Miners
Carpenters
Bridge Carpenters
Blacksmiths
Plumbers and Pipe-fitters
Electricians
Enginemen, Steam
Engineers, Gas
Firemen
Machinists
Masons
Caulkers
Riggers
Axemen

From the above it is evident that the architect can fit in somewhere in the Corps of Engineers, particularly in construction, topography, draughting, sanitary and electrical work. The architect would be in charge of much the same class of trades as he is in his professional superintendence, although military engineering technique is quite a different matter. In France many architects are engaged in translating photographs from aeroplanes into maps.

FILL OUT AND RETURN TO
EVARTS TRACY, Chairman, Central Committee on Preparedness
A. I. A., The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Name .....
Street .....
City .....
State .....
American Citizen .....
Education .....
School .....
College .....
Age ..... Height ..... Weight .....
Fitness for active service .....
Previous military training, if any .....
Are you at present enrolled in any military organization? .....
.....
Would you be willing to enter the service of the country in time of need in a position where your special knowledge and ability would be of the most use?
In your professional practice have you special knowledge of:
Administration, and purchasing of supplies and materials .....
Superintendence of construction .....

Engineering	Topography
Structural	Surveying .....
Bridge	Hospitals .....
Road	Warehouses .....
Sanitary	
Electrical	

Can you make clear and accurate line landscape sketches? .....
Can you drive a motor car? .....
Have you any other knowledge which you consider would be useful in time of war?
.....

XUM

Notice of Removal

On May 1 next THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT will remove to its new offices at No. 243 West 39th Street, New York.

Personal

Mr. Cass Gilbert, architect, announces the removal of his offices to No. 244 Madison Avenue, New York.

Exhibition of Architectural Models

There will be a special exhibition of architectural models April 23 to May 3, 1917, from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily except Sunday, at the Country Life Permanent Exposition, Grand Central Terminal, New York City.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

The Browne Window

An attractive brochure on the Browne Window has been issued by Richey, Browne & Donald, Inc., 2101 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, N. Y. This window is especially recommended for use in hotels. It is constructed on a new principle which is simple and produces noiseless operation. It is somewhat similar to the casement type used extensively in continental hotels. To open the window it is only necessary to give the sash a gentle push out; to close it, pull in.

It is claimed that it will not stick or bind and will not rattle in the wind. It is constructed of solid steel or bronze. There is no metal to metal contact. There are no weights, chains, tracks, pulleys, gearing or operating devices. The result is an elimination of expense for repairs, replacements and adjustments. The glass can be cleaned on the outer and inner sides from the interior in a safe and simple manner. Architecturally the window is particularly pleasing in appearance. It is said to be readily adaptable to any type of building. Fire retardant qualities are obvious from the construction and materials used. It is said that subjected to test under pressure equal to that of wind blowing at the rate of 140 miles an hour the sash proved itself superior in its resistance to the passage of air to any other window so tested. Other tests were for weather resisting qualities and dust proofness. In both of these it is claimed that the window demonstrated the mechanical excellence of its manufacture.

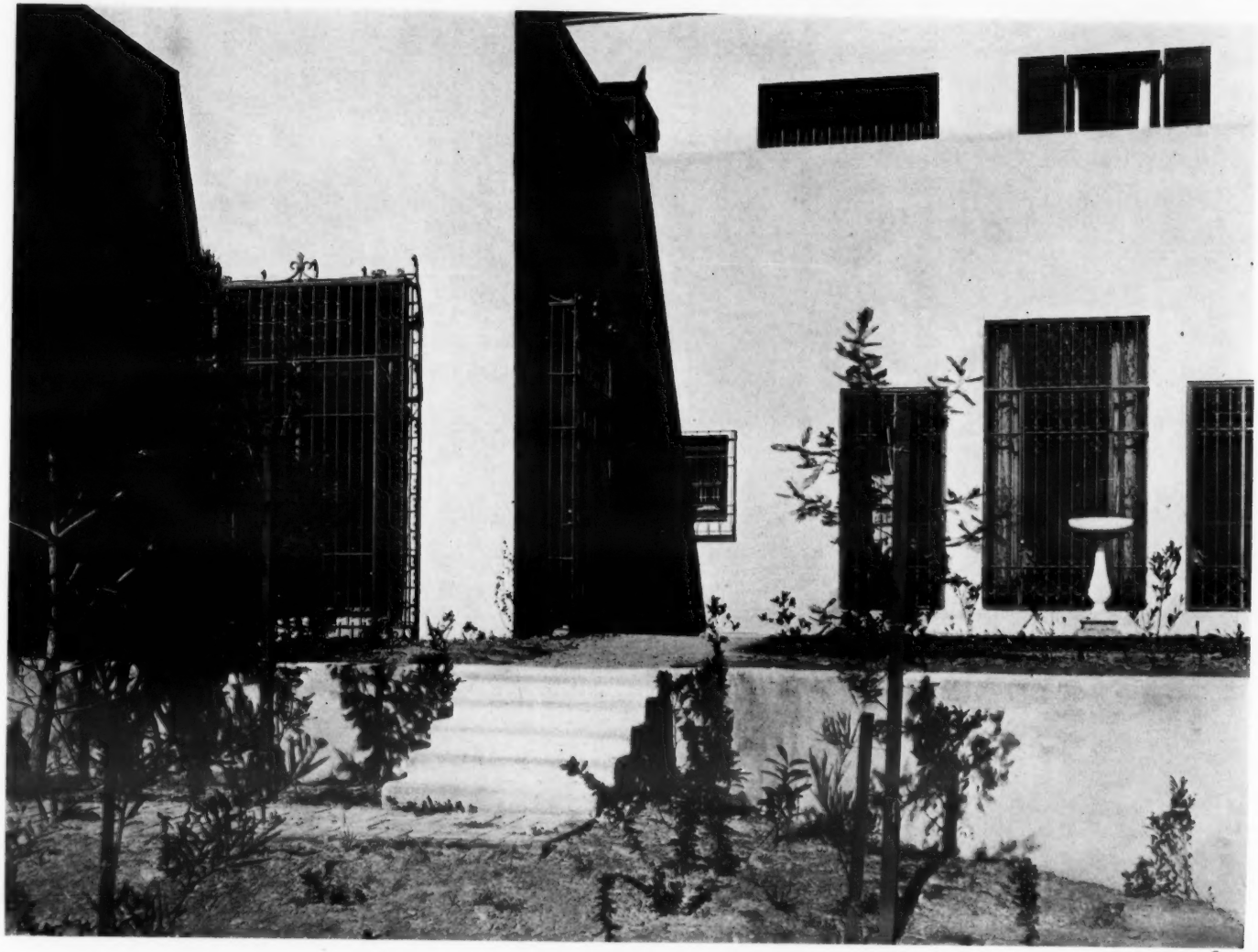
The use of this window, it is stated, results in maximum light and ventilation, and perfect ventilation without draft. Copy of the brochure referred to will be sent to architects upon request.

Clinton Welded Sheathing

The Clinton Wire Cloth Company, Clinton, Mass., has issued a booklet describing welded sheathing which is a combination of Clinton electrically welded wire and tarred felt. It is said to furnish in this form an inexpensive lathing material for stucco and interior plastering; also a reinforcement for short span concrete slabs in roofs or floors carrying comparatively light loads. This material is manufactured by arranging longitudinal and transverse wires on opposite sides of tarred felt and electrically welding them together through very small holes previously punched in the felt at each point where a longitudinal crosses a transverse wire. In this way the tarred felt becomes an integral part of the wire mesh being locked and held between the two groups of wires, but at the same time having no physical connection to any of the wires. The resulting material is a galvanized wire lathing and moisture proof felt combined. As applied to cement roof and floor construction this sheathing is said to eliminate the use of forms as the material may be stapled directly to the joists and merely screeded over with from one inch to one and one-half inches of concrete or cement mortar.

It is claimed that for light loads and short spans welded sheathing provides both forms and galvanized wire reinforcement combined in one material at about half the cost of wood forms in place.

Copies of this booklet may be had upon application.



DETAIL, HOUSE OF E. M. FOWLER, ESQ., CHINO, CAL.

MR. MYRON HUNT, *ARCHITECT*